

Ever since Abner Doubleday invented the game, a game is played until one team wins. That was part of the enchantment of the game: theoretically it could go on forever. Unless, that is, a commissioner calls it off and goes to dinner.

Ever since baseball was declared as entertainment instead of a business in a 1922 Supreme Court decision that gave the owners exemptions from laws against collusion and other monopolistic activities, we have probably been headed to this day. These anti-trust exemptions give owners tremendous power and any proposals to change it, like Rep. JOHN CONYERS tried to do not too long ago, have gone nowhere.

And, we're not proposing that today, I'm not even sure I'm for that. I happen to think that it would kill the minor leagues.

And right now, these 160 teams are playing some of the purest baseball being played today.

So what do we do? Here's how I see it.

What would any of us do if we saw a loved one, someone you grew up with and loved like a member of your family, with a pistol in his hand, loaded with the safety off and aimed at their temple?

What if you had only a few seconds before that close personal friend blew his brains out? I'd try to stop him. And I think you would too. I'd lurch for the pistol and try to take it away from him by whatever force necessary. I'd do just about anything to save his life.

I could go on with this analogy, but I think you get the picture.

For sixty summers I've followed the game of baseball. I live for the early days of February when the catchers and pitchers report for spring training.

And when the World Series ends in the late fall, I might as well be hibernating in a cave during the winter, or serving in the Senate, because my life is so empty.

But, I digress. Back to saving the life of that good friend about to blow his brains out.

That's what this resolution attempts to do.

Its purpose is to inject the Federal Government, with all its persuasive powers, into this dispute. Hopefully, with the end result of preventing the baseball players from striking and shutting down major league baseball.

I want to save this game for those who love it as I do and for those who will come after us. I do not want to see our national pastime become our national once-upon-a-time.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4313. Mr. DEWINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 812, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide greater access to affordable pharmaceuticals; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4314. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4309 proposed by Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MILLER, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. CORZINE) to the bill (S. 812) supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4315. Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. GREGG, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. NICKLES) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4299 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. MILLER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. HARKIN)) to the bill (S. 812) supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4313. Mr. DEWINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 812, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide greater access to affordable pharmaceuticals; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE —IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUG COVERAGE

SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage Act of 2002".

SEC. 02. PROVISION OF APPROPRIATE COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

(a) CONTINUED ENTITLEMENT TO IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS FOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 226A(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 426-1(b)(2)) is amended by inserting "(except for coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1861(s)(2)(J))" after "shall end".

(2) APPLICATION.—In the case of an individual whose eligibility for benefits under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) has ended except for the coverage of immunosuppressive drugs by reason of the amendment made by paragraph (1), the following rules shall apply:

(A) The individual shall be deemed to be enrolled in part B of the original medicare fee-for-service program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395j et seq.) for purposes of receiving coverage of such drugs.

(B) The individual shall be responsible for the full part B premium under section 1839 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r) in order to receive such coverage.

(C) The provision of such drugs shall be subject to the application of—

(i) the part B deductible under section 1833(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(b)); and

(ii) the coinsurance amount applicable for such drugs (as determined under such part B).

(D) If the individual is an inpatient of a hospital or other entity, the individual is entitled to receive coverage of such drugs under such part B.

(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT COVERAGE.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish procedures for—

(A) identifying beneficiaries that are entitled to coverage of immunosuppressive drugs by reason of the amendment made by paragraph (1); and

(B) distinguishing such beneficiaries from beneficiaries that are enrolled under part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act for the complete package of benefits under such part.

(4) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Subsection (c) of section 226A (42 U.S.C. 426-1), as added by section 201(a)(3)(D)(ii) of the Social Security Independence and Program Improvements Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-296; 108 Stat. 1497), is redesignated as subsection (d).

(b) EXTENSION OF SECONDARY PAYER REQUIREMENTS FOR ESRD BENEFICIARIES.—Sec-

tion 1862(b)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(b)(1)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "With regard to immunosuppressive drugs furnished on or after the date of enactment of the Immunosuppressive Drugs Coverage Act of 2002, this subparagraph shall be applied without regard to any time limitation."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to drugs furnished on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 03. PLANS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS.

(a) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart 2 of part A of title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-4 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 2707. COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS.

"A group health plan (and a health insurance issuer offering health insurance coverage in connection with a group health plan) shall provide coverage of immunosuppressive drugs that is at least as comprehensive as the coverage provided by such plan or issuer on the day before the date of enactment of the Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage Act of 2002, and such requirement shall be deemed to be incorporated into this section."

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2721(b)(2)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-21(b)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting "(other than section 2707)" after "requirements of such subparts".

(b) APPLICATION TO GROUP HEALTH PLANS AND GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE UNDER THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of part 7 of subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1185 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 714. COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS.

"A group health plan (and a health insurance issuer offering health insurance coverage in connection with a group health plan) shall provide coverage of immunosuppressive drugs that is at least as comprehensive as the coverage provided by such plan or issuer on the day before the date of enactment of the Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage Act of 2002, and such requirement shall be deemed to be incorporated into this section."

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 732(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1185(a)) is amended by striking "section 711" and inserting "sections 711 and 714".

(B) The table of contents in section 1 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 713 the following new item:

"Sec. 714. Coverage of Immunosuppressive drugs."

(c) APPLICATION TO GROUP HEALTH PLANS UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Subchapter B of chapter 100 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in the table of sections, by inserting after the item relating to section 9812 the following new item:

"Sec. 9813. Coverage of immunosuppressive drugs.";